

# WHO South-East Asia Region Epidemiological Bulletin

WHO Health Emergencies Programme  
WHO Regional Office for South-East Asia  
26<sup>th</sup> edition (2024), 25 December 2024  
Reporting period: 09 to 22 December 2024



This epidemiological bulletin aims to provide the situation of key infectious diseases in the WHO South-East Asia Region to inform risk assessments and responses. The bulletin uses information from publicly available sources and will be published every two weeks. For feedback or suggestions, please write to [seoutbreak@who.int](mailto:seoutbreak@who.int).

<b>Key events and updates</b> .....	<b>2</b>
Nepal: mpox.....	2
Myanmar: Acute Watery Diarrhea/Cholera .....	2
<b>Mpox</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>Dengue</b> .....	<b>4</b>
Bangladesh .....	4
India .....	5
Nepal.....	6
Sri Lanka.....	6
Thailand .....	7
<b>COVID-19</b> .....	<b>8</b>
Situation in WHO South-East Asia Region .....	8
Global circulation of SARS-CoV-2 variants.....	10
SARS-CoV-2 variants in the South-East Asia Region .....	10
<b>Annex</b> .....	<b>11</b>
WHO resources on mpox .....	11



## Key events and updates

### Nepal: mpox

#### Situation overview as of 21 December 2024 <sup>1</sup>

- On 20 December 2024, the Nepal Ministry of Health and Population published a press release regarding a confirmed mpox case.
- On 19 December 2024, a 36-year-old man returned to Nepal from Saudi Arabia. Upon his return, he visited the hospital presenting symptoms, including blisters.
  - The patient was isolated, and samples were taken on the same day.
- On 20 December 2024, laboratory tests confirmed a positive result for mpox.
- The case is currently under observation and his condition is stable.
- Information about the clade is not available thus far. Further investigations are ongoing.

### Myanmar: Acute Watery Diarrhea/Cholera

#### Situation as of 22 December 2024 <sup>2</sup>

- On 22 December 2024, the Thailand Ministry of Public Health published a press release, summarizing actions taken to manage the risks related to acute watery diarrhea/cholera along the border with Myanmar.
- According to the press release, Shwe Kokko, Myawaddy Township, Kayin State in Myanmar, which borders with Thailand, has reported 300 patients and 2 deaths, with 56 individuals being treated at Shwe Kokko Hospital.
- In Thailand, two patients are admitted for treatment, one at Mae Sot Hospital and another at Mae Ramat Hospital, and awaiting laboratory results.
- An emergency operations center (EOC) was established in Tak province in Thailand to manage the event, highlighting that Mae Ramat and Mae Sot districts in Tak Province are high-risk areas.
- Proactive surveillance will be implemented in high-risk areas such as border communities, factories, and temporary border shelters, facilitating early notification of people with diarrhea to public health officials.
- Maintenance of clean drinking water, proper chlorination, and monitoring of food sale activities are enforced.

---

<sup>1</sup> [Nepal Ministry of Health and Population. Press release – 20 December 2024](#)

<sup>2</sup> [Thailand Ministry of Public Health. Press release – 22 December 2024](#)

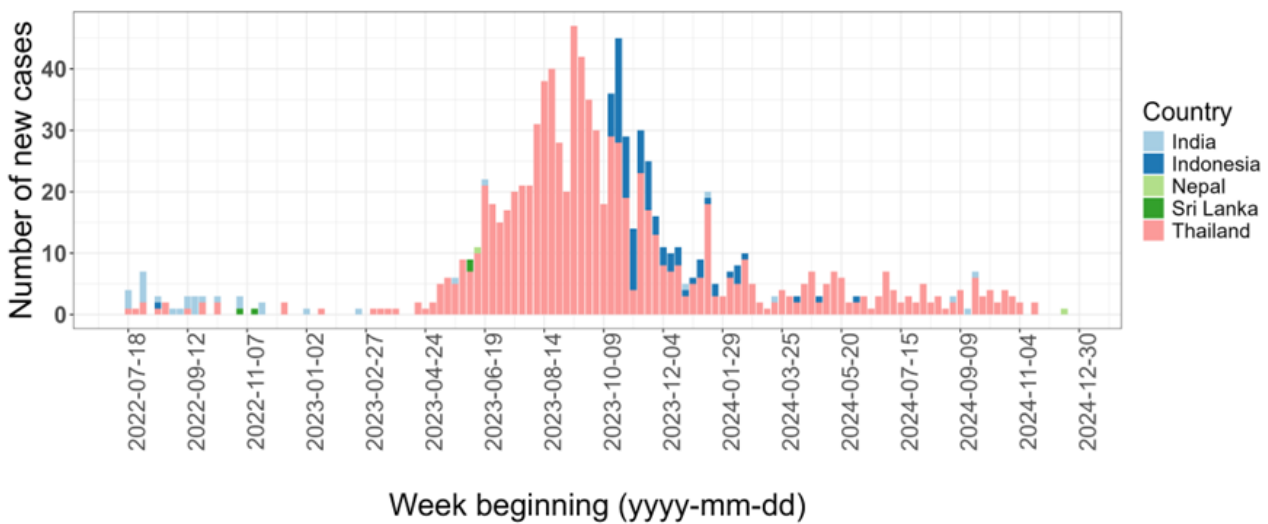


# Mpox

## Situation overview in WHO South-East Asia Region as of 22 December 2024

- In the WHO South-East Asia Region, as of 22 December 2024, a total of 992 laboratory-confirmed mpox cases, including 11 deaths, have been reported since 14 July 2022 (Figure 1).
- In 2024, a total of 199 mpox cases have been reported in the Region - 178 from Thailand, 15 from Indonesia, five from India and one from Nepal. One death was reported from Thailand.
- In epidemiological weeks 50 and 51 (9 to 22 December), one new mpox case was reported from Nepal.
- So far, two mpox cases with Clade Ib infection have been detected in the Region, one case in Thailand and another case in India. Both cases had recent international travel history and were symptomatic during the air travel. Both countries implemented robust public health measures, including contact tracing, and no subsequent transmission has been detected. Both cases were notified to WHO through the respective National International Health Regulations (IHR) Focal Point.
- For information on global epidemiological situation of mpox, please see:
  - [WHO mpox surveillance dashboard](#)

**Figure 1. Number of mpox cases reported in WHO South-East Asia Region by date of notification\* (14 July 2022 – 22 December 2024)**



\* Cases are plotted as per the week of notification (based on the date on which the case was notified to the public health authority). For 87 cases in Indonesia for which the date of notification is missing, the date of diagnosis was used.

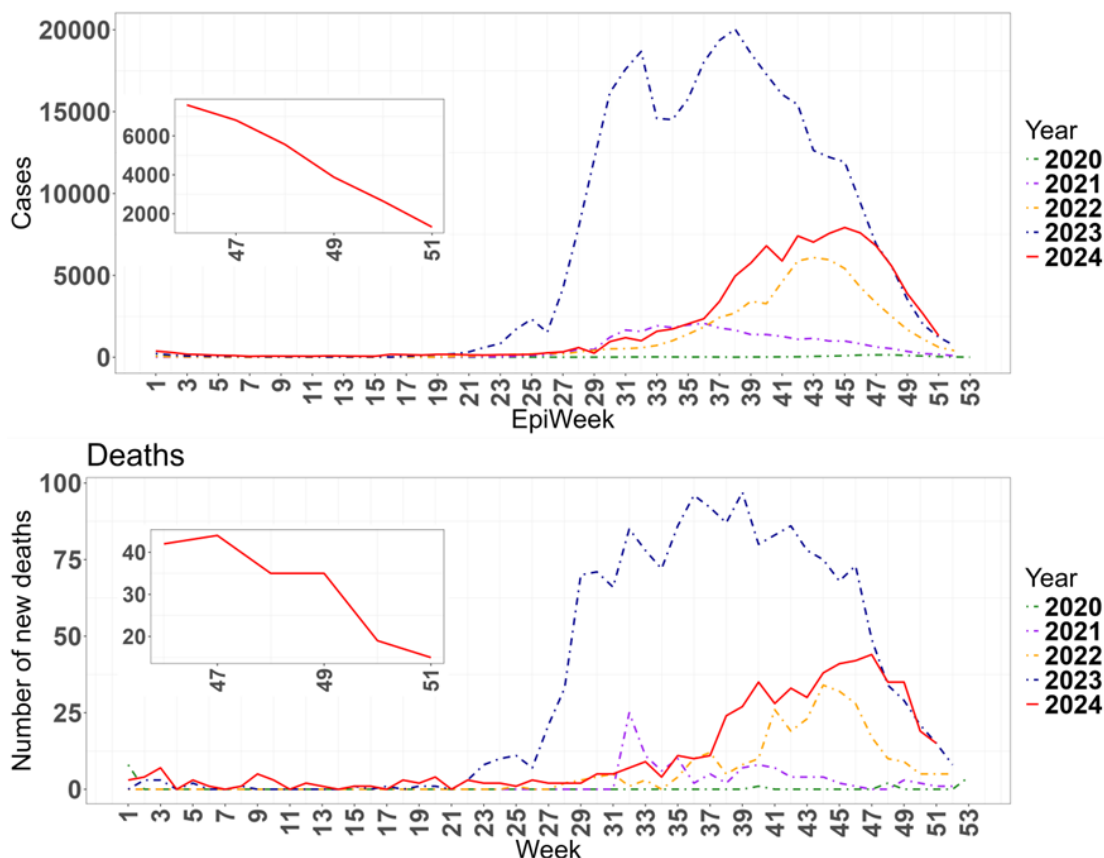


# Dengue

## Bangladesh<sup>1,2</sup>

- In Bangladesh, both dengue cases and deaths are showing declining trend in the recent weeks.
- During week 51 (from 16 to 22 December 2024), a total of 1 317 new dengue cases were reported in Bangladesh, a 50.3% decrease compared to 2 649 cases reported during week 50 (from 09 to 15 December 2024).
- During week 51, a total of 15 new dengue deaths were reported in Bangladesh, a 21.1% decrease compared to 19 deaths reported during week 2024.
- In 2024, as of week 51, a total of 100 194 dengue cases and 566 dengue related deaths have been reported. This is 31% of the number of cases (n= 320 419) and 33% of the number of deaths (n=1 697) reported at the same time (week 51) in 2023.

**Figure 2. Number of new cases and deaths from dengue by week in Bangladesh from week 1 of 2020 to week 51 of 2024.**



Source: Health Emergency Operation Center and Control Room, DGHS Reported Monthly Dengue cases & Dengue Deaths in Bangladesh. Available at: <https://old.dghs.gov.bd/index.php/bd/home/5200-daily-dengue-status-report>

<sup>1</sup> [Bangladesh Dengue press releases](#)

<sup>2</sup> [Bangladesh daily Dengue press release 22 December 2024](#)

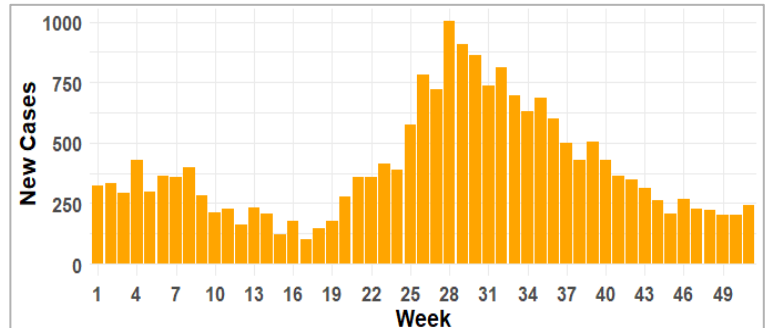


## India

### Kerala<sup>3</sup>

- Kerala State continues to show declining trend in dengue cases, after the peak around the week 28.
- During week 51 (from 16 to 22 December 2024), a total of 244 new dengue cases were reported in Kerala, a 20% increase compared to 203 cases reported during week 50 (from 09 to 15 December 2024).
- From the week one to week 51 in 2024, a total of 20 374 cases were reported.
- A total of 17 426 dengue cases were reported in the entirety of 2023.

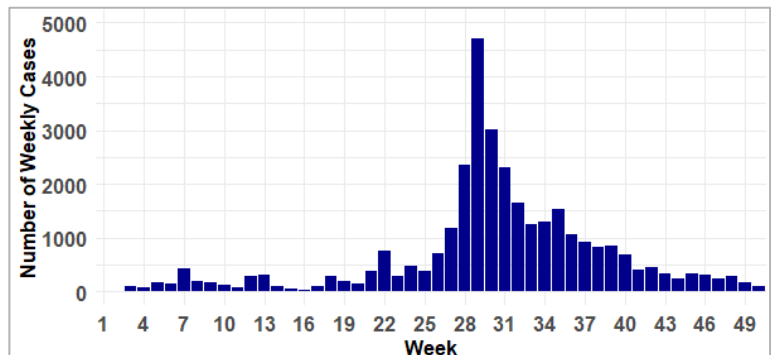
**Figure 3. Number of new dengue cases by week in Kerala from week 1 to week 51 of 2024**



### Karnataka<sup>4</sup>

- Karnataka State also shows declining trend in dengue cases.
- During week 50 of 2024 (from 09 to 15 December 2024), a total of 111 new dengue cases were reported in Karnataka, a 39% decrease compared to 182 cases reported during week 49 (from 2 to 8 December 2024).
- From the week one to week 50 in 2024, a total of 32 557 cases were reported.
- A total of 19 300 dengue cases were reported in the entirety of 2023.

**Figure 4. Number of new dengue cases by week in Karnataka from week 1 to week 50 of 2024**



<sup>3</sup> [Kerala](#)

<sup>4</sup> [Karnataka](#)

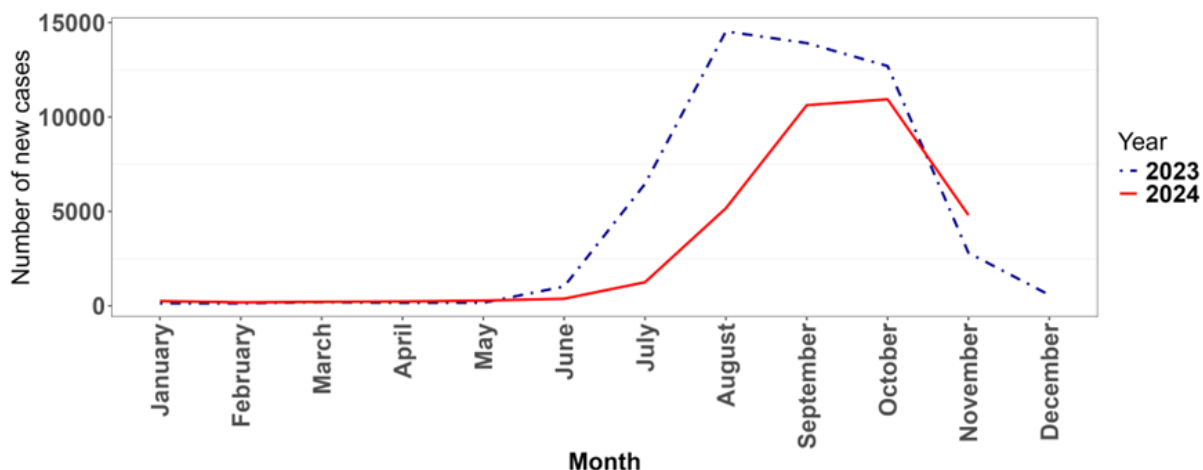




### Nepal <sup>5</sup>

- In Nepal, the number of dengue cases is showing declining trend. In November 2024, a total of 4 802 dengue cases have been reported, a 56.1% decrease compared to October 2024 (n=10 936).
- In 2024, as of 30 November, a total of 34 315 cases and 13 deaths have been reported, affecting 76 districts.
- As of 30 November, Gandaki province (15 806 cases, 46%) reported the highest number of cases, followed by Bagmati province (12 253 cases, 36%).

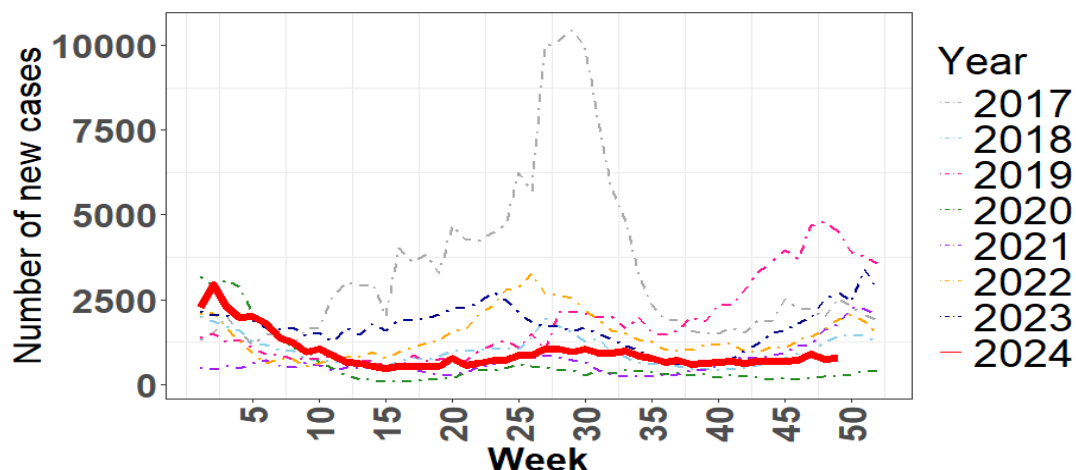
Figure 5. Number of new cases of dengue by month reported by the EWARS in Nepal from January 2023 to November 2024.



### Sri Lanka <sup>6</sup>

- During week 49 (from 2 to 8 December 2024), a total of 778 new dengue cases were reported in Sri Lanka, a 7% increase compared to 727 cases reported during week 48 (from 25 November to 01 December 2024).
- From week one to the week 49 in 2024, a total of 46 388 cases were reported compared to 80 060 cases and 70 826 cases during the same period in 2023 and 2022, respectively.

Figure 6. Number of new dengue cases by week in Sri Lanka from week 1 of 2017 to week 49 of 2024.



Sources: Epidemiology Unit and National Dengue Control Unit, Ministry of Health - [2017 to 2020](#); [2021 to 2024](#)

<sup>5</sup> <https://edcd.gov.np/news/20241203dengue-situation-update>

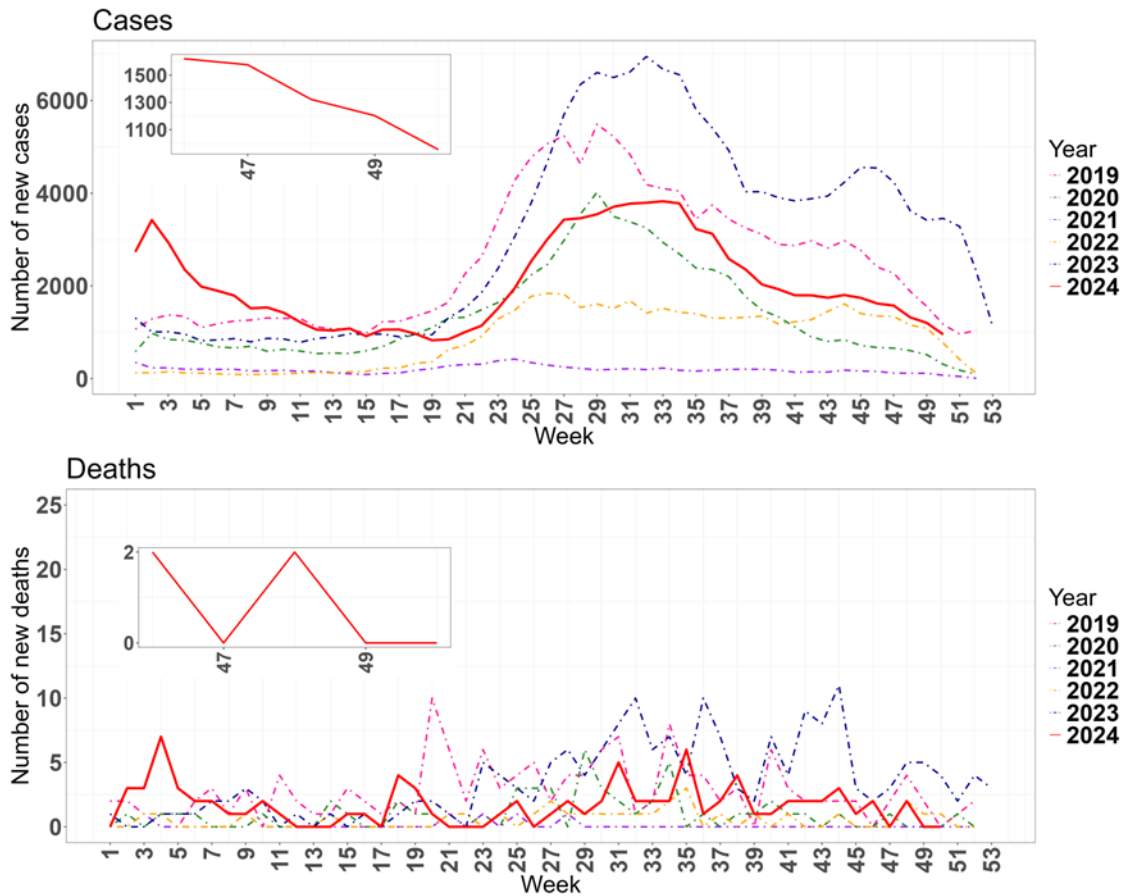
<sup>6</sup> [Sri Lanka National Dengue Control Unit](#)



Thailand<sup>7 8 9</sup>

- During week 50 (from 09 to 15 December 2024), a total of 954 new dengue cases were reported in Thailand, a 20.7% decrease compared to 1 203 cases reported during week 49 (from 2 to 8 December 2024).
- During weeks 49 and 50, no new dengue deaths were reported in Thailand.
- In 2024, as of week 50, a total of 102 927 cases including 84 deaths (CFR=0.08%) have been reported. This compares to 155 920 cases including 175 deaths (CFR=0.11%) reported from week one to week 50 in 2023.

Figure 7. Number of new dengue cases and deaths by week in Thailand from 2019 to week 50 of 2024



Source: [Ministry of Public Health, Thailand](https://www.moph.go.th/)

<sup>7</sup> [Thailand Ministry of Public Health](https://www.moph.go.th/)

<sup>8</sup> [Thailand Ministry of Public Health](https://www.moph.go.th/)

<sup>9</sup> [Thailand Ministry of Public Health](https://www.moph.go.th/)



## COVID-19

### Situation in WHO South-East Asia Region

Situation as of 22 December 2024

- In the WHO South-East Asia Region, in weeks 50 and 51 (from 9 to 22 December 2024), 1 747 new COVID-19 cases, an increase of 40.8% and 3 deaths, a decrease of 40% were reported, compared to the previous 14 days (Table 1).
- The Region has recorded a cumulative total of 61 326 974 COVID-19 cases, including 808 867 deaths (Table 1).
- During week 49 in 2024, the proportion of respiratory samples collected at influenza sentinel surveillance sites in the selected countries that tested positive for COVID-19 ranged from 0.4% (Bangladesh) to 14.6% (Indonesia) (Figure 9).
- Please refer to the [WHO SEARO COVID-19 dashboard](#) for further information of COVID-19 in WHO South-East Asia Region.
- Globally, 777 026 543 COVID-19 cases, including 7 078 481 deaths have been cumulatively reported, as of 24 November<sup>10</sup>. Please visit the [WHO COVID-19 dashboard](#) for the global situation of COVID-19.

**Table 1. COVID-19 cases, deaths, and the change in new cases in countries in the WHO South-East Asia Region in the week as of 22 December 2024.**

Country	Cumulative cases	New cases (last 14 days)	% change in new cases	New cases per 1M pop	Cumulative deaths	New deaths (last 14 days)	% change in new deaths	New deaths per 1M pop
Thailand	4,808,454	1,597	46.1	22.3	34,741	0	-100.0	0.0
India	45,044,549	17	-63.8	0.0	533,661	3	0.0	0.0
Bangladesh	2,051,536	17	13.3	0.1	29,499	0	0.0	0.0
Myanmar	643,241	2	-60.0	0.0	19,494	0	0.0	0.0
Indonesia	6,830,081	114	37.3	0.4	162,059	0	0.0	0.0
Sri Lanka	672,812	NA	NA	NA	16,907	NA	NA	NA
Bhutan	62,697	NA	NA	NA	21	NA	NA	NA
Maldives	186,694	NA	NA	NA	316	NA	NA	NA
Nepal	1,003,450	NA	NA	NA	12,031	NA	NA	NA
Timor-Leste	23,460	NA	NA	NA	138	NA	NA	NA
SEAR Total	61,326,974	1,747	40.8	NA	808,867	3	-40.0	NA

Notes:

Percent change in the number of newly confirmed cases/deaths in past 14 days, compared to the previous 14 days.

NA = data not available.

DPR Korea has not reported confirmed COVID-19 cases.

Indonesia and Thailand data were for the period from 8 to 21 December 2024 in comparison to the preceding 14 days.

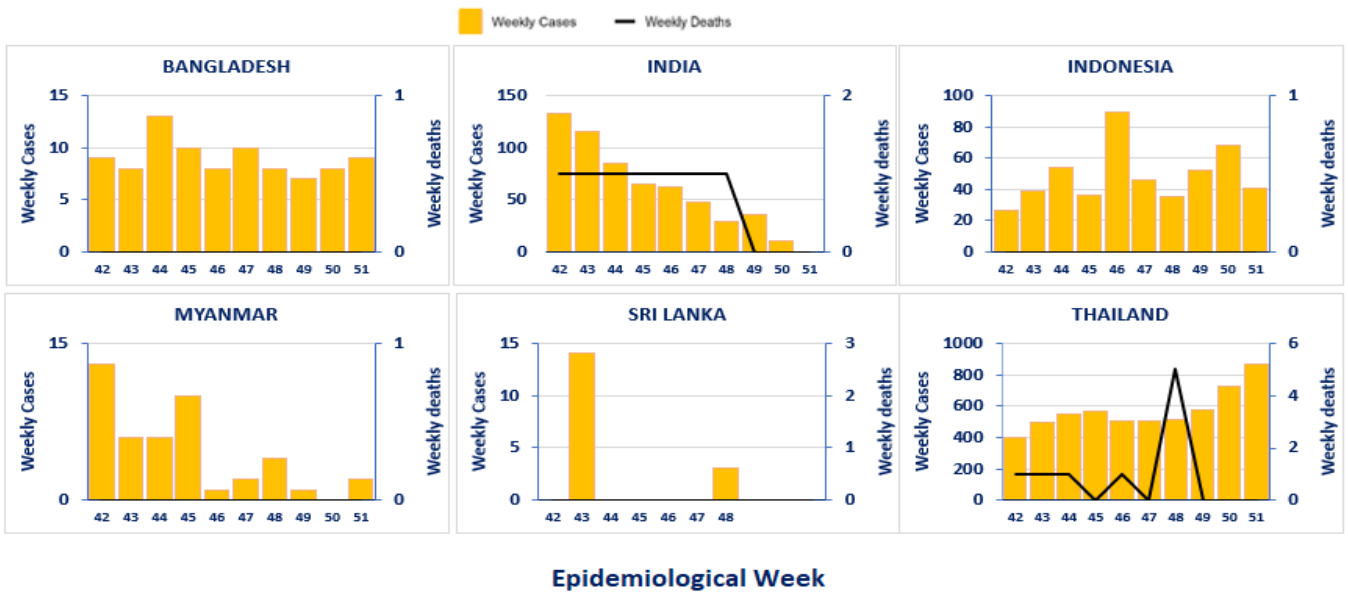
As for cumulative numbers, Maldives data are as of 5 August 2023, Timor-Leste data as of 11 August 2023, Bhutan data as of 8 October 2023, Nepal data as of 20 October 2023 and Sri Lanka data as of 30 November 2024.

<sup>10</sup> [Global Dashboard](#). Data as 8 December 2024



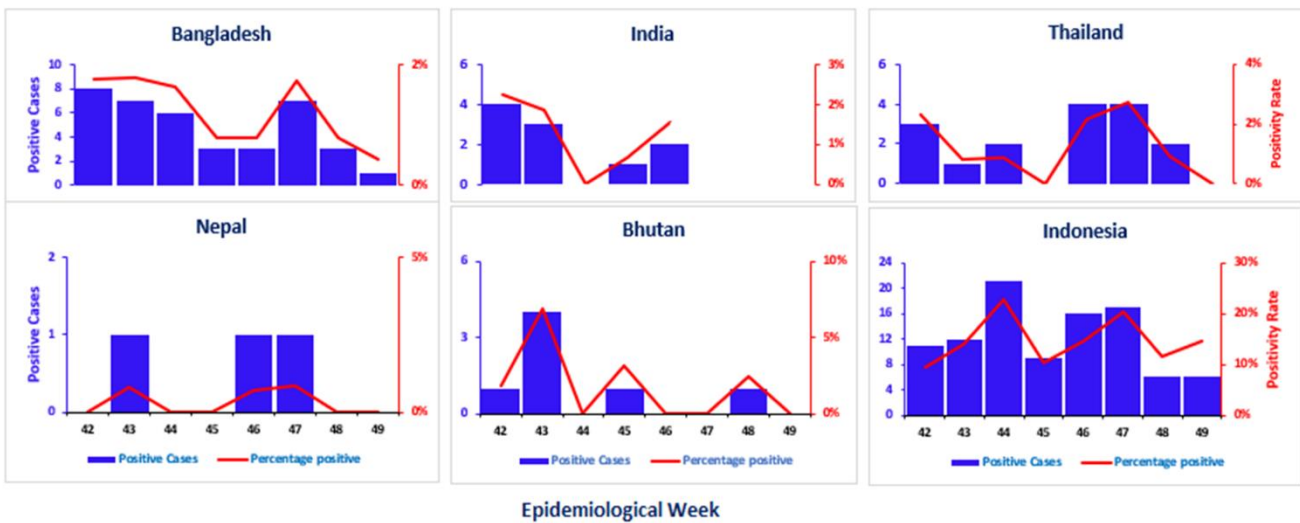


**Figure 8. Weekly number of new COVID-19 cases reported during the recent ten weeks (as of 22 December 2024) in the WHO South-East Asia Region\*.**



\* Data for Maldives, Bhutan, Nepal, and Timor-Leste are not available. Sri Lanka and Indonesia data were as of 30 November 2024.

**Figure 9. Weekly number of SARS-CoV-2 positive samples and test positivity from integrated influenza-SARS-CoV-2 sentinel surveillance systems in the recent eight weeks in selected countries\* (as of 22 December 2024).**



\* Countries routinely conducting SARS-COV-2 testing of the samples collected through influenza sentinel surveillance sites (Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Indonesia, Nepal and Thailand). India data as of week 46.



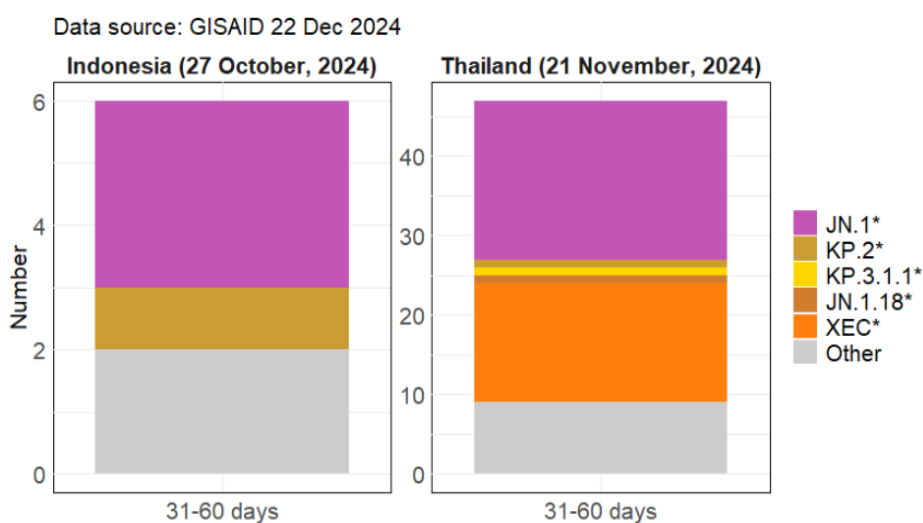
### Global circulation of SARS-CoV-2 variants

- WHO is currently tracking several SARS-CoV-2 variants and their sub-lineages including <sup>11</sup>:
  - One variant of interest (VOIs): JN.1
  - Six variants under monitoring (VUMs): KP.2; KP.3; KP.3.1.1; JN.1.18, LB.1 and XEC
- Information on the current status of the global SARS-CoV-2 variants can be found from [the WHO COVID-19 dashboard](#).

### SARS-CoV-2 variants in the South-East Asia Region

- The genomic sequence data submitted to GISAID <sup>12</sup> by countries in the South-East Asia region in the past 60 days by date of collection are shown in Figure 10 (as of 22 December 2024). Only a small number of genomic sequences have been submitted from countries and therefore the data should be interpreted with caution.
- In the last 60 days:
  - In **Indonesia**, six genomic sequences were submitted with JN.1\* accounting for 50% (n=3). One genomic sequence corresponding to KP.2\* was also submitted.
  - In **Thailand**, 47 genomic sequences were submitted with JN.1\* accounting for 42.6% (n=20) followed by XEC\* accounting for 31.9% (n=15). One genomic sequence each corresponding to JN.1.18\*, KP.2\* and KP.3.1.1\* were also submitted.
  - Other countries have not submitted genomic sequences recently to GISAID.

**Figure 10. Number of genomic sequences submitted in last 60 days.**



<sup>11</sup> <https://www.who.int/publications/m/item/covid-19-epidemiological-update-edition-173>

<sup>12</sup> <https://gisaid.org/>



## Annex

### WHO resources on mpox

All current WHO interim technical guidance can be accessed on [this page](#) of the WHO website. WHO evidence-based guidance has been and will continue to be updated in line with the evolving situation and updated scientific evidence. The selected publications are listed below for easier reference, along with other relevant resources.

- **IHR Emergency Committee, Temporary Recommendations and Standing Recommendations**
  - [Second meeting of the International Health Regulations \(2005\) Emergency Committee regarding the upsurge of mpox 2024](#) (28 November 2024)
  - [First meeting of the International Health Regulations \(2005\) Emergency Committee regarding the upsurge of mpox 2024](#) (19 August 2024)
  - [Standing recommendations for mpox issued by the Director-General of the World Health Organization \(WHO\) in accordance with the International Health Regulations \(2005\) \(IHR\)](#)
- **Strategic planning**
  - [Mpox global strategic preparedness and response plan](#) (26 August 2024, updated on 6 September 2024)
  - [Strategic framework for enhancing prevention and control of mpox \(2024-2027\)](#) (May 2024)
- **General information on mpox**
  - [Mpox fact sheet](#)
  - [Monkeypox outbreak page \(2022\)](#)
  - [Mpox \(monkeypox\) health topic page](#)
  - [Mpox \(monkeypox\) Q&A](#)
- **Epidemiological situation**
  - Dashboard: [https://worldhealthorg.shinyapps.io/mpx\\_global/](https://worldhealthorg.shinyapps.io/mpx_global/)
  - [Multi-country outbreak of mpox, External situation report #44](#) - (23 December 2024)
  - [Genomic epidemiology of monkeypox virus](#) (Nextstrain)
- **Technical documents**
  - [Surveillance, case investigation and contact tracing for mpox: interim guidance](#) (27 November 2024)
  - [Considerations for wastewater and environmental surveillance for monkeypox virus: interim guidance](#) (25 November 2024)
  - [Technical Brief \(interim\) and Priority Actions: Enhancing Readiness for mpox in WHO South-East Asia Region](#) (13 September 2024)
  - [Diagnostic testing for the monkeypox virus \(MPXV\): interim guidance](#) (10 May 2024)
  - [Risk communication and community engagement readiness and response toolkit: mpox](#) (23 April 2024)
  - [Clinical characterization of mpox including monitoring the use of therapeutic interventions: statistical analysis plan](#) (13 October 2023)
  - [Smallpox and mpox \(orthopoxviruses\): WHO position paper](#) (August 2024)
  - [SAGE on mpox vaccines](#) (page 16)
  - [Vaccines and immunization for monkeypox: Interim guidance](#), 16 November 2022
  - [Annexes to the Vaccines and immunization for monkeypox interim guidance](#)
  - [Background document for the SAGE October 2022 session on monkeypox vaccines](#)
- **Data collection tools**
  - Case report form: [Word](#)
  - Case investigation form: [PDF](#)
- **Mass gathering**
  - [Public health advice for gatherings during the current monkeypox outbreak](#)
  - [Interim advice for public health authorities on summer events during the monkeypox outbreak in Europe, 2022](#)
  - [Catalogue of resources on mpox mass and large gathering event preparedness](#)